

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17270 241703Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 EB-08 COME-00
/041 W

-----038269 250357Z /14

R 241637Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4682
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 17270

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, PERR, US, UK, UR
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL US PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET HELICOPTER
DEMONSTRATION

REF: STATE 185956

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JULY 24 OFFICIALLY
INFORMED EMBASSY THAT FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR TWO BELL
HELICOPTERS COMPRISING US TEAM, HAS BEEN GRANTED.

2. CANCELLATION OF OFFICIAL FRG PARTICIPATION IN THE
WORLD HELICOPTER CHAMPIONSHIPS IN VITEBSK COULD MAKE BELL
HELICOPTER'S PARTICIPATION IN CHAMPIONSHIPS MORE DIFFICULT
ACCORDING TO FRANK CANTWELL, US TEAM MANAGER, 22 MEMBERS
OF US TEAM (OF 26) WILL BE FLYING INTO SOVIET UNION
JULY 28 WITH GERMAN "TRANSALL" AIRCRAFT WHICH HE HAS ALSO
DESCRIBED AS A LUFTWAFFE AIRCRAFT. ALSO, ALTHOUGH STATUS
UNCLEAR, ONE OF HELICOPTERS TO BE USED BY US TEAM IS OF
FRG REGISTRY (IT IS BEING LEASED) AND CO-PILOT OF THIS
HELICOPTER IS A WEST GERMAN.

3. US TEAM MANAGER, FRANKLIN CANTWELL, CAN BE REACHED
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AT VIENNA HILTON, C/O MR. WILLEMSSEN, TELEX 076799.

4. COMMENT. UNUSUAL MFA TREATMENT OF FLIGHT CLEARANCE
IS CLEAR INDICATION OF SOVIET INTEREST IN BELL'S PARTICI-
PATION.

5. EMBASSY WAS SURPRISED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OFFICIALLY GRANTED FLIGHT CLEARANCE JULY 24--FULLY 4 DAYS
BEFORE IN-FLIGHT. MFA USUALLY UNOFFICIALLY INFORMS
EMBASSY ONLY ONE OR TWO DAYS BEFORE IN-FLIGHT, AND

OFFICIALLY INFORMS EMBASSY ON DAY OF IN-FLIGHT. MOREOVER,
DURING WEEK OF JULY 17 MFA HAD INFORMED EMBASSY THAT
FLIGHT CLEARANCE WOULD BE DELAYED PAST JULY 28 BECAUSE
DETAILED FLIGHT PLAN HAD NOT BEEN SUBMITTED. IT STILL HAS
NOT BEEN SUBMITTED (TIME OF ENTRY INTO SOVIET AIRSPACE
STILL OUTSTANDING). TOON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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